



**Embassy of the United States of America**  
Brunei Darussalam  
Public Affairs Office  
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**Press Release**

**January 15, 2015**

## **‘American Shelf’ Launches at the National Library of Brunei Darussalam**

On January 15, the National Library of Brunei Darussalam and the U.S. Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan inaugurated Brunei’s first-ever ‘American Shelf’, a collection of resources on American culture, education, and English-language programs, which was donated to the National Library by the American Embassy.

The American Shelf is located in the youth section of the library and offers to the Brunei public the use of free books, magazines and electronic databases on topics related to the United States of America.

Chargé d'affaires to the U.S. Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan, Mark S. Dieker and Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports Permanent Secretary Dato Paduka Hj Mohd Hamid Hj Mohd Jaafar together opened the American Shelf. Also attending the event was the U.S. Department of State’s Regional Information Resource Officer, Sarah Ziebell, who flew to Brunei from Indonesia for the occasion.

The U.S. Embassy’s Mark Dieker remarked that, “We are delighted and honored that the National Library of Brunei Darussalam has provided us with a section to showcase books representing the United States. The American Shelf exemplifies the U.S. commitment to building bridges of mutual respect and understanding between the United States and Brunei. The establishment of the American Shelf is a great opportunity for those who are interested in the United States to learn more about our culture and educational programs.”

The American Shelf will provide visitors with books and other materials about the United States – its history, culture, society and values. English language learning materials for teachers and students will also be available. Students and professionals who wish to pursue higher education in the United States will find a comprehensive list of resources on undergraduate and graduate studies in America, as well as review books for admission tests such as the SAT, GRE and GMAT.

The U.S. Embassy and the National Library look forward to expanding the American Shelf as a space that will allow more people-to-people connections between Brunei and the United States through cultural programs and open online courses.

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